

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

Please replace the claims with the amended claims as follows:

1. (Currently Amended) 1. A skin treatment composition comprising an extract of *Mahonia aquifolium* in a liposome delivery system, wherein the extract comprises a hydroalcoholic extract of the bark and twigs of *Mahonia aquifolium*, which is obtainable by extracting the bark and twigs of *Mahonia aquifolium* with a hydroalcoholic solvent at a pressure of 3-6 psi and a temperature of 40°C-50°C comprises 1.5 mg of berberine alkaloid per ml of extract.
2. (Previously Presented) A skin treatment composition as claimed in claim 1 wherein the extract of *Mahonia aquifolium* is present in a concentration of from 5% to 20% by weight of the total composition.
3. (Original) A skin treatment composition as claimed in claim 1 wherein the extract of *Mahonia aquifolium* is present in a concentration of 10% by weight of the total composition.
4. (Withdrawn) A process for obtaining an extract of *Mahonia aquifolium* comprising the steps of:
 - (a) applying heat and pressure to a mixture of water, alcohol and crude dried *Mahonia aquifolium*;
 - (b) stirring the mixture;
 - (c) processing the mixture at a speed of about 3000rpm for about three hours;
 - (d) allowing the mixture to cool under pressure for at least 24 hours;
 - (e) repeating the last two steps at least twice more;
 - (f) releasing the pressure;
 - (g) placing the mixture under vacuum with heating and mixing to reduce and remove the alcohol and water to obtain a mixture of approximately 6% by volume; and
 - (h) filtering the resulting mixture to obtain the extract of *Mahonia aquifolium*.

5. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 4 wherein in step (a) the mixture is heated to a temperature of not higher than 50°C.
6. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 4 wherein in step (a) the mixture is heated to a temperature of 40°C.
7. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 4 wherein the pressure is in a range of about 3 to 6 psi.
8. (Withdrawn) An extract of *Mahonia aquifolium* obtained by the process of claim 4.
9. (Withdrawn) Method of treating psoriasis, eczema and other dry skin conditions by applying the skin treatment composition of claim 1.